

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A steroid inducible promoter expression system in a filamentous fungus or a unicellular yeast, wherein the inducible promoter expression system can be modulated.
2. (Currently Amended) A steroid inducible promoter expression system in a filamentous fungus or a unicellular yeast comprising a regulated gene expression cassette which comprises:
  - (a) a first promoter operatively linked to a regulator protein; and
  - (b) a regulatable promoter operatively linked to a target nucleic acid molecule, the regulatable promoter being activated by the regulator protein in the presence of an ~~effective~~ exogenous inducer, ~~whereby administration~~ wherein addition of the exogenous inducer causes activates expression of the target nucleic acid molecule and ~~removal or antagonizing of the wherein withdrawal of the exogenous inducer or its activity stops inactivates~~ expression of the target nucleic acid molecule.
3. (Currently Amended) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the regulator protein is expressed from a nucleic acid construct that is not physically linked to the ~~nucleic acid molecule comprising the promoter region to which the regulator protein binds~~ regulatable promoter.
4. (Currently Amended) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 2, wherein the regulatable promoter is an estrogen receptor promoter.
5. (Original) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 1 or 2 wherein the promoter further comprises a stuffer fragment for activation or repression.
6. (Currently Amended) A vector selected from the group consisting of pRM2085, pRM2124, pRM2119, pERE URA JUNK, pERE URA nirA and pERE JUNK nirA expressed in a filamentous fungus or a methylotrophic yeast.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The steroid inducible promoter expression system of ~~any one of~~ claims 1-6 claim 1 or 2, wherein the filamentous fungus is selected from the group consisting of

*Aspergillus A. nidulans, Aspergillus A. niger, Aspergillus A. oryzae, A. awamori, A. chrysogenum, A. saitoi, A. tubigensis, Trichoderma reesei T. viridae, T. harzianum, Trichoderma sp., Chrysosporium lucknowense, Fusarium sp., Fusarium gramineum, Fusarium venenatum, Mucor sp., Ashbya gossipii, Penicillium sp., and Neurospora crassa.*

8.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A steroid inducible promoter expression system of ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the unicellular yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Pichia pastoris, Pichia finlandica, Pichia trehalophila, Pichia koelamae, Pichia membranaefaciens, Pichia minuta (Ogataea minuta, Pichia lindneri), Pichia opuntiae, Pichia thermotolerans, Pichia salietaria, Pichia guereuun, Pichia pijperi, Pichia stiptis, Pichia methanolic, Pichia sp., Hansenula polymorpha, Hansenula sp., Kluyveromyces sp., Kluyveromyces lactis, Candida albicans, Candida sp. and Torulopsis sp.*
15. (Currently Amended) A method for modulating gene expression in a filamentous fungus or a unicellular yeast comprising inducing a target nucleic acid molecule using a regulated gene expression cassette which ~~comprising~~ comprises:
- (a) a first promoter operatively linked to a regulator protein; and
  - (b) a regulatable promoter operatively linked to a target nucleic acid molecule, the regulatable promoter being activated by the regulator protein in the presence of an ~~effective~~ exogenous inducer, ~~whereby administration~~ wherein addition of the exogenous inducer ~~causes~~ activates expression of the target nucleic acid molecule and ~~removal or antagonizing of the wherein withdrawal of the exogenous inducer or its activity stops~~ inactivates expression.
16. (Original) A filamentous fungus or a unicellular yeast comprising a steroid inducible expression system that can be modulated.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The filamentous fungus or ~~[[a]]~~ unicellular yeast of claim 16, wherein a target nucleic acid molecule is modulated by a regulatable gene expression cassette which comprising:
- (a) a first promoter operatively linked to a regulator protein; and

- (b) a regulatable promoter operatively linked to a target nucleic acid molecule, the regulatable promoter being activated by the regulator protein in the presence of an effective exogenous inducer, ~~whereby administration wherein addition~~ of the exogenous inducer ~~causes activates~~ expression of the target nucleic acid molecule ~~and removal or antagonizing of the wherein withdrawal of the exogenous inducer or its activity stops inactivates~~ expression.
18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The filamentous fungus or a unicellular yeast~~ of claim 16 or 17, wherein the filamentous fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Aspergillus A. nidulans*, *Aspergillus A. niger*, *Aspergillus A. oryzae*, *A. awamori*, *A. chrysogenum*, *A.saitoi*, *A. tubigensis*, *Trichoderma reesei*, *T. viridae*, *T. harzianum*, *Trichoderma sp.*, *Chrysosporium lucknowense*, *Fusarium sp.*, *Fusarium gramineum*, *Fusarium venenatum*, *Mucor sp.*, *Ashbya gossipii*, *Penicillium sp.*, and *Neurospora crassa*.
  19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The filamentous fungus or a unicellular yeast~~ of claim 16 or 17 wherein the unicellular yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Pichia pastoris*, *Pichia finlandica*, *Pichia trehalophila*, *Pichia koclamae*, *Pichia membranaefaciens*, *Pichia minuta* (*Ogataea minuta*, *Pichia lindneri*), *Pichia opuntiae*, *Pichia thermotolerans*, *Pichia salictaria*, *Pichia guereuuum*, *Pichia pijperi*, *Pichia stiptis*, *Pichia methanolica*, *Pichia sp.*, *Hansenula polymorpha*, *Hansenula sp.*, *Kluyveromyces sp.*, *Kluyveromyces laetis*, *Candida albicans*, *Candida sp.* and *Torulopsis sp.*
  20. (New) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 7 wherein the *Trichoderma sp.* is selected from the group consisting of *T. reesei*, *T. viridae* and *T. harzianum*.
  21. (New) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 7 wherein the *Fusarium sp.* is selected from the group consisting of *Fusarium gramineum* and *Fusarium venenatum*.
  22. (New) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 14 wherein the *Pichia sp.* is selected from the group consisting of *Pichia pastoris*, *Pichia finlandica*, *Pichia trehalophila*, *Pichia koclamae*, *Pichia membranaefaciens*, *Pichia minuta*, *Ogataea minuta*, *Pichia lindneri*, *Pichia opuntiae*, *Pichia thermotolerans*, *Pichia salictaria*, *Pichia guereuuum*, *Pichia pijperi*, *Pichia stiptis* and *Pichia methanolica*.
  23. (New) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 14 wherein the *Hansenula sp.* is *Hansenula polymorpha*.

24. (New) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 14 wherein the *Kluyveromyces* sp. is *Kluyveromyces lactis*.
25. (New) The steroid inducible promoter expression system of claim 14 wherein the *Candida* sp. is *Candida albicans*.
26. (New) The filamentous fungus or unicellular yeast of claim 18 wherein the *Trichoderma* sp. is selected from the group consisting of *T. reesei*, *T. viridae* and *T. harzianum*.
27. (New) The filamentous fungus or unicellular yeast of claim 18 wherein the *Fusarium* sp. is selected from the group consisting of *Fusarium gramineum* and *Fusarium venenatum*.
28. (New) The filamentous fungus or a unicellular yeast of claim 19 wherein the *Pichia* sp. is selected from the group consisting of *Pichia pastoris*, *Pichia finlandica*, *Pichia trehalophila*, *Pichia koclamae*, *Pichia membranaefaciens*, *Pichia minuta*, *Ogataea minuta*, *Pichia lindneri*, *Pichia opuntiae*, *Pichia thermotolerans*, *Pichia salictaria*, *Pichia guercuum*, *Pichia pijperi*, *Pichia stiptis* and *Pichia methanolica*.
29. (New) The filamentous fungus or unicellular yeast of claim 19 wherein the *Hansenula* sp. is *Hansenula polymorpha*.
30. (New) The filamentous fungus or unicellular yeast of claim 19 wherein the *Kluyveromyces* sp. is *Kluyveromyces lactis*.
31. (New) The filamentous fungus or unicellular yeast of claim 19 wherein the *Candida* sp. is *Candida albicans*.